Degrading Mahatma Gandhi by MTV-US Network and 'Maxim' magazine

2407. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ:
SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards news caption "MTV ridicules using Mahatma Gandhi clone" which appeared in "The Hindu" dated the 30th January 2003;

(b) whether any action has been initiated on the reported action of MTV-US Network and American fashion magazines 'Maxim' degrading Mahatma Gandhi; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would take up this matter in the appropriate forum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Yes. Both the MTV-US network as also the Maxim magazine, which had earlier depicted Mahatma Gandhi inappropriately, have apologised for the offence caused by them. MTV-US expressed regret for the offense caused to the people of India and the memory of Mahatma Gandhi. Earlier, the Editor-in-Chief of 'Maxim' had also apologised in writing to our Embassy in Washington.

Export of Dual use Technology

2408. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAYYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US has not so far removed barriers on the export of dual use technology;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken so far in this regard;

(c) whether the foreign secretary raised the issue with the US officials during his recent visit to US; and